

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of selecting command codes for use in a remote control, the method comprising:

displaying to a user at a client computer a plurality of operations capable of

being performed by a consumer electronic device; and

in response to a user selecting one of the displayed plurality of operations at the client computer, selecting from a database accessible to a server computer a command code that will cause the consumer electronic device to perform the selected operation when transmitted from the remote control.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of displaying an image representing the remote control.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying the image representing the remote control comprises the step of indicating newly configured keys.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying the image representing the remote control comprises the step of indicating configurable keys.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of displaying a selection comprising a plurality of consumer electronic devices to the user.

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5 6. The method of claim 5, comprising the step of selecting a particular consumer electronic device manufactured by a particular manufacturer in response to a selection by a user from a plurality of manufacturers.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying comprises transmitting a Web page from the server computer to the client computer, the Web page having information for displaying to the user the plurality of operations.

15 8. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of transmitting the command code for downloading to the remote control.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting the command code comprises the step of transmitting the command code to a user selected location.

20 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the command code to the client computer.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting the command code comprises the step of transmitting the command code to a predetermined location.

25 12. The method of claim 8, comprising the step of providing customized labeling.

5 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing customized labeling comprises the step of shipping the customized labeling from a predetermined location.

15. The method of claim 8, comprising the step of shipping the customized remote control to a predetermined location.

16. The method of claim 8, comprising the step of shipping the customized remote control to a user selected location.

17. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of generating a customized label for indicating to the user a mapping between a key of the remote control and the command code.

18. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of transmitting a code sequence to the client computer to re-configure a portion of the customized remote control.

- 5 19. A customizable remote control comprising:
- a case;
 - a plurality of pre-programmed standard keys on the case;
 - a plurality of configurable keys on the case; and
 - a plurality of electronically generated customized labels corresponding to the
- 10 plurality of configurable keys.
20. A customizable remote control comprising:
- a plurality of pre-programmed standard keys;
 - a plurality of configurable keys;
 - 15 means for assigning at least one function to at least one of the plurality of
- configurable keys; and
- means for labeling the configurable keys.
21. The remote control of claim 20, wherein the means for labeling comprises computer
- 20 generated labeling fitted in a recess.
22. The remote control of claim 20, comprising means for representing a user selected
- key layout.
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5 23. A method of providing a customized consumer electronic device comprising the steps
of:

transmitting a Web page for displaying to a user a plurality of operations
performable by the consumer electronic device and information for mapping at least
one of the operations to a key on the consumer electronic device;

10 receiving from the user a selection of one of the operations and an
identification of a key to which the operation is to be mapped;

forming a virtual configuration comprising the operation selection and key
identification, whereby the virtual configuration is useable in the consumer electronic
device.

15 24. The method of 23, comprising placing the virtual configuration in a transmission and
transmitting the virtual configuration to a user selection location.

20 25. The method of 23, comprising placing the virtual configuration in a transmission for
transmission to a microchip for subsequent installation into the to be customized consumer
electronic device.

25 26. The method of claim 23, comprising the step of shipping a customizable consumer
electronic device to a predetermined location, wherein the customizable consumer electronic
device is the customized consumer electronic device prior to customization.

5 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of transmitting comprises programming
the virtual configuration into a microchip and the method comprises the steps of:

shipping the microchip to the predetermined location; and

installing the microchip in the customizable consumer electronic device.

10 28. A method of allowing a user to customize a remote control capable of commanding operation of a consumer electronic device, the method comprising:

transmitting a Web page for displaying to a user a plurality of operations performable by the consumer electronic device and information for use in mapping an operation to a key on the remote control;

15 receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of operations and
an identity of a key on the remote control to which the selection operation is to be
mapped; and

20 *exp* 1. selecting code from a database for configuring the remote control to cause the transmission of a command that causes the consumer electronic device to perform the selected operation when the selected key is activated.

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5 29. A method of selecting command codes for use in a remote control, the method comprising:

receiving a message having information indicative of an operation capable of being performed by a consumer electronic device; and

10 in response to the message, selecting from a database for installation into the remote control a command code that will cause the consumer electronic device to perform the operation when transmitted from the remote control.

30. A method of selecting command codes for use in a remote control, the method comprising:

15 presenting to a user a plurality of operations capable of being performed by a consumer electronic device;

receiving from the user information pertaining to a method of payment; and

20 in response to a verification of the method of payment, selecting from a database for installation in the remote control a command code that will cause the consumer electronic device to perform the selected operation when transmitted from the remote control.

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31. A method of modifying a remote control comprising the steps of:
displaying to a user at a client computer a plurality of command sets
corresponding to a respective plurality of consumer electronic devices;

in response to a user selection of at least one command set, selecting from a
database a plurality of command codes operable with the respective consumer
electronic device to form the at least one command set; and

creating a transmission including the at least one command set for allowing
the command set to be downloaded to the remote control.

*select
from
database*

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32. The method of claim 31, comprising the step of displaying an indication of how much
memory will be used if the at least one of the plurality of command sets is downloaded.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of displaying the indication comprises the
step of displaying the indication as a percentage of memory of the remote control being
modified.

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34. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of displaying the indication comprises
displaying the indication as a percentage of available memory.

- 5 35 A method of upgrading a hand held device comprising the steps of:
- displaying to a user at a client computer a selection comprising a plurality of
- the command codes; and
- in response to a selection by the user of at least one of the plurality of
- command codes provided in the selection, forming a transmission including the at
- 10 least one command code for ultimate use in the hand held device.
36. A customizable hand held device comprising:
- a hand held unit having a display screen;
- memory communicable with the display screen and including at least three
- 15 programming sets for respectively controlling at least three devices, wherein at least
- two of the at least three programming sets are associated with a common brand; and
- set up programming in the unit for enabling a user to select at least one of the
- at least three programming sets during a set up mode, wherein the at least two
- programming sets associated with the common brand are represented in a prioritized
- 20 order.
37. A method of configuring a remote control comprising the steps of:
- accessing a database via a Web site that includes information for displaying
- a plurality of functions;
- 25 selecting at least one of the functions; and
- downloading the function.

5 38. A method of enabling a user to customize a remote control, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to a user selection, selecting among a plurality of functions at least one desired function; and forming a virtual configuration including the at least one desired function.

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39. A method of enabling a user to customize a remote control, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a graphical user interface for enabling the user to select at least one function operable with the remote control; and

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creating a transmission including the at least one function for ultimate use of the one function by the remote control.

40. A remote control kit comprising:

a customizable remote control including a plurality of configurable keys;

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labeling means for identifying the configurable keys; and

means for customizing the remote control including a user accessible display displaying a plurality of customizable features, by which the user may configure the configurable keys.

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5 45. A handheld user interface for use in an interactive environment, the interface comprising:

a touch screen;

means for displaying on the touch screen an icon representing a purchased product or service;

10 means for receiving a code associated with the purchased product or service, wherein the code provides access to the purchased product or service; and

means for transmitting the code to gain access to the purchased product or service upon actuation of the purchase icon.

15 46. A method of customizing a user's device having a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a user information identifying an original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) device;

determining a face layout corresponding to the OEM device;

20 selecting from a database simulation programming operable with the user's device, wherein the simulation programming is adapted to simulate the face layout on the display screen of the user's device.

25 47. The method of 47, wherein the user's device is a handheld remote, the face layout comprises a key layout corresponding to the OEM device, and wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting command codes associated with keys represented in the key layout.

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5 48. A method of customizing a remote control comprising the steps of:

displaying to a user at a client computer a plurality of operations capable of
being performed by a consumer electronic device;

displaying to the user instructions pertaining to forming a user selected
sequence comprising a user selected plurality of the plurality of operations; and

10 forming a transmission including code data corresponding to the user selected
sequence for use in downloading the code data to the remote control.

15 50. A method of customizing a remote control comprising the steps of:

displaying to a user at a client computer a plurality of pre-programmed
sequences comprising a plurality of operations capable of being performed by one or
more consumer electronic devices; and

in response to a user selection, causing at least one of the pre-programmed
sequences to be downloaded to the remote control.

20 51. A method of customizing a remote control comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of consumer electronic devices to a user at a client
computer; and

in response to a user selection of at least one of the consumer electronic
devices, displaying a plurality of pre-programmed sequences operable with the at
least one of the consumer electronic devices the sequences being available for

25 download to the remote control to be customized.

